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Message Text

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15
ACTION EUR-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4211
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ENRG, EINV, CA
SUBJECT: NEW PRESIDENT OF NATIONALIST GROUP CALLS FOR CANADAIN CONTROL OF FOREIGN-OWNED OIL COMPANIES -- MEDIA REACTION.

1. IN AN EDITORIAL PAGE OPINION COLUMN IN THE SEPTEMBER 20 TORONTO ST AR,
BRUCE WILLSON, RETIRED ENERGY EXECUTIVE AND NEWLY ELECTED CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE FOR AN INDEPENDENT CANADA, CALLED FOR CANADAIN OWNERSHIP AND CONTROL OF THE MAJOR FOREIGN-OWNED OIL COMPANIES, NATIONAL RATHER THAN REGIONAL OR PROVINCIAL ENERGY SUPPLY PLANNING, DIVERSION OF ENERGY PRICE INCREASES TO NEW ENERGY SUPPLY PROJECT FINANCING AND SETTING OF ENERGY PRICES ON A COST-RELATED BASIS," NOT ON THE BASIS OF PRICES SET BY A MONOPOLISTIC CARTEL." THE ARTICLE, HEADLINED "FOREIGN CONTROL OF ENERGY MEANS ECONOMIC CATASTROPHE", GAVE EXAMPLES OF HOW FOREIGN-OWNED COMPANIES OPERATE "WITH LITTLE APPARENT REGARD FOR CANADA'S LONG-TERM INTERESTS", E.G. CONTRACTS FOR SALE TO US OF GAS WHEN PROJECTIONS FORECAST PRECARIOUS GAS SUPPLY OUTLOOK, CANCELLATION OF CAPITAL EXPENDITURE PROGRAMS BECAUSE OF PROFIT LIMITATIONS IMPOSED BY ANTI-INFLATION PROGRAM, FOREIGN OWNERSH IP
OF CANADIAN SUBSIDIARY R&D, ETC. MR. WILLSON CONDLUDED "ONLY IF WE BECOME MASTERS IN OUR OWN HOUSE CAN WE BE A TRULY
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INDEPENDENT AND VIABLE NATION."

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2.COMMENT:WHILE THE COMMITTEE FOR AN INDEPENDENT CANADA
STILL REPRESENTS RESPECTABLE AS OPPOSED TO RADICAL NATIONALISM,
ITS ANNUAL MEETING THIS PAST WEEKEND IN NOVA SCOTIA,ACCORDING TO
PRESS REPORTS, EVIDENCED HOW SUPPORT HAS DRIED UP. ONLY 62 OF THE
7600 MEMBERS SHOWED UP AND NONE OF THE FOUNDERS OR PROMINENT BACKERS
APPEARED -- E.G., WALTER GORDON, PETER NEWMAN, MEL HURTIG, ABRAHAM
ROTSTEIN, ETC.THE MORE RADICAL CANADAIN PRESS DURING THE PAST
YEAR COMMENTED AT ONE POINT THAT THE COMMITTEE WAS FOUNDED AS A
BELATED ATTEMPT TO INTEREST THE COMMON MAN IN THE NATIONALIST
PHILOSOPHY BEING PREACHED BY THE POLITICIANS, JOURNALISTS AND
ACADEMICIANS OF THE GORDON/NEWMAN/ROTSTEIN VARIETY. IT HAS NEVER
ATTRACTED OVERWHELMING POPULAR SUPPORT, AND, IF ITS RECENT MEETING
IS INDICATIVE, HAS LOST GROUND EVEN AMONG ITS WHITE COLLAR SUPPORTERS
.
IT DOES, HOWEVER, MAINTAIN CONSIDERABLE STRENGTH IN THE MEDIA,
PARTICULARLY WITH THE TORONTO STAR, AND,THE DYNAMCIS OF ITS OWN
ORGANIZATION ASIDE, REMAINS A FORCE IN CANADIAN OPINION THAT MAY
BECOME MORE VOCAL ON SENSITIVE ENERGY QUESTIONS WITH A FORMER
HEAD OF UNION GAS AND OF CANADAIN BECHTEL AS ITS CHAIRMAN.
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